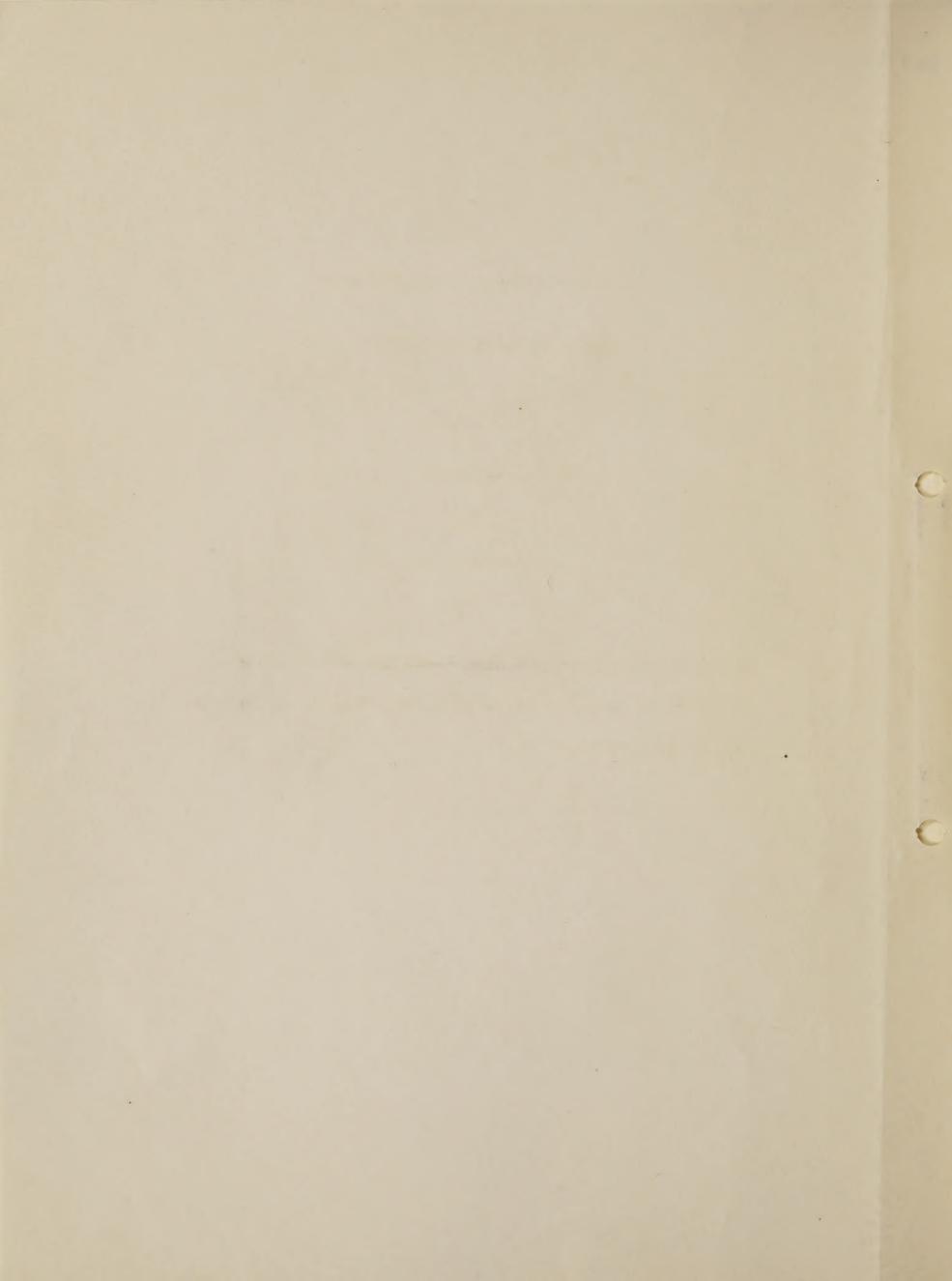
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EARLY BUILDING OPERATIONS

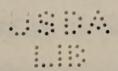
by

B. T. Galloway

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Extracts from notes entitled "Some Recollections and Comments Relating to the Evolution of the U. S. Department of Agriculture."

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These recollections and comments have been set down from time to time without regard to consecutive dates or time periods. They are glimpses of work and workers connected with the evolution of a branch of the Federal Government with which I have been associated for nearly 50 years. - B. T. Galloway.

EARLY BUILDING OPERATIONS main administration Building of the Department of Agriculture were the first structures authorized after the appointment of a Park Commission. This body came into existence in 1901 in accordance with a resolution sponsered by the late Benator McMillan. The Park Commission submitted a voluminous report on a plan for the improvement of the entire park system of the District of Columbia. The Park Commission consisted of Daniel H. Burnhan of Chicago, Frederick L. Olmstead of Brookline, Massachusetts, and Charles F. McKim of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, New York.

and Secretary Wilson asked me to serve as chairman of a committee to look after all matters relating to the location and construction of the building or buildings. The other members of the committee were Dr. D. E. Salmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and Dr. A. C. True, Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations. The full records of the work of this committee will be found in offi-

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Bome Recollections and Comments Relating to the Evolution of the U. 3. Department of Agriculture.

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EARLY BUILDIEG OPERATIONS

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The Department buildings were suthorised in February, 1903, and Secretary Wilson asked me to serve as chairman of a committee noliowitanco bas noiteool eat of antisfer arettem lis refla mool of of the building or buildings. The other members of the committee were Dr. D. H. Balmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and Dr. A. C. True, Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations. The -lite of the work of this committee will be found in the

cially published documents, chiefly five annual reports which I prepared and submitted to the Secretary.

Being the first buildings planned for erection on the Mall we found ourselves at once confronted with a good many difficult problems regarding location and other matters. Conditions were further complicated by the fact that the Congress at that time, and especially members of the House Appropriations' Committee, were more or less hostile to the elaborate and costly plans of the Park Commission. The Park Commission, however, was fully supported by President Roosevelt who was in thorough sympathy with the great scheme for the beautification of Washington and the surrounding territory. When authorization was secured for an appropriation of oneand-a-half million dollars for the Apricultural Department building or buildings certain influential Congress/indicated that there was no necessity for the erection of classical marble structures and that we could get far more room for the money appropriated by constructing good types of commercial buildings of brick and terra cotta. The Park Commission, however, was opposed to the erection of any such structures on the Mall and were further opposed to the encroachment on the Hall of any buildings except as planned for the greater improvement of that part of the city.

After much discussion and many tedious delays it was at last decided to erect buildings on the south side of the hall and far enough back to the south so that no encroachment would be made on the hall proper. Before reaching this point, however, we had difficulty with the first architects. These architects had won a competition which with the aid of the Supervising Architect of the

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from Congress. In appropriation of \$5,000 was made for this work.

The bailding approved by the consisted of architects was a bosatiful structure but not designed to meet our argent meeds for laboratory work. We asked the architects, Lord and Hewlett of New York, to revise their plans and to consider the erection of two wings with the idea that eventually we should obtain authority to erect a central structure and later extend our baildings to the south across B itreet. The architects refused to do this and the secretary discharged them and we then secured the services of Rankin, Kellogg and Crane, of chiladelphie, who fell in with our visions and immediately began work preparing plant for two separate structures designed primarily for laboratory use.

ofter complying with the wishes of the bark Consission in locating the buildings south of the Dall line, it was decided to center the Administration Building on 13th Street. to had secured the services of Capt. John J. Sevell, of the Engineer Corps of the U. J. irmy, to advise and assist as in our work. Suptain levell made It a point to keep in touch with the Fark Comission at all times so as to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts. Durly in 1904 we began construction work on our bulldings and after expending about 18,000 for excavations we were informed by the Park Commission that we should not have centered our structures on 13th Street, as this was contrary to the plans for the improvements on the Mall. We were further in-Miles warrants DIES WEST TATTOL formed that the Administration Building when erected should be placed MA WHEN TARTHER CALLS. THE PARTY in the center of the Department grounds, which would aluce it considerably further west than lith litrat.

Toose, the depropriation of fig. Out was made for this work.

Lety work. We asked the architects, ford and Herlett of New Y cory work. We asked the architects, ford and Herlett of New Y cory work.

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for exercising we unformed by the Park Commission with these action extends on the began for exercising we informed by the Park Commission that we should no have centered our structures on 12th Street, as this was contrary formed that the Administration smilding when exerced amends be placed formed that the Administration smilding when exerced amends be placed to the formed that Street, which would place it com-

Naturally this decision of the Park Co mission coming after we thought all matters with them has been adjusted aroused the Secretary and also some of the leading members of the House who got wind of what was going on. Our work was stopped for a while. In the meantime influential lengtors were besieging the President arging him to have us comply with the Park Commission's instructions and plans. Now we want to record two episodes for which the foregoing is more or less of a background - episodes showing the resourcefulness and human side of President hoosevelt.

One day at a Cabinet moeting he called Jecretary Vilson to hi and asked him about the trouble we were having with our building operations. Becretary Wilson gave his am outline of some of our controversies and discussions with the Park Commission and intilated that the Commission did not seem to know its own mind for any length of time. The President listed with close attention, then in his characteristic way, he said - "I'll fix things!" He told the Beeretary he would be down that afternoon and look at the excavations we were making for the buildings. The President said to expect him around about 4:30 and that he would walk over from the Unite House. It was a beautiful soring day and at 4:10 the secretary and I walked out in front of the old brick building and strolled among the flower beds awaiting the coming of the President. Time passed and the President did not come. Over on the Ellipse back of the White House the high school cadets were having a sham oattle. Gans were firing, drums were beating and there was much noise and yelling over in that part of town. Along about 5:50 P.M. the Becratary remarked that he suspected the President had not into the sham buttle. Hear 5 o'clock

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Maturally this decision of the Port Counission coming after ear browns board, in most had noted this eyest on the second as offy early and to are the Lead out to we the House who got and of eat our joing on, our wor an acong the a while, the state of the s in ... - ntime influential new york were besieging the President the same of the same of the ergine of white the Park Commission's instructions And the state of t cell place. Now we want to remove our epicones for water or was or less of a background - episodes showing the reof Love over 1 and or wells your metalogue settles as called a de bull and the the said that a said a second to the mibling the drive store we were having with our building the saffaration decay, in out the second william and outline of some of our besentant bas moleatemed Arci out the interested and intimated tos co do mindom old me see to know its own mind for any length AND ARREST BUT AND AND ARREST OF THE PARTY O to the second to the second took at the second tons we The factor and the street of the The President said to expect him and the state of the second of the second and the second of the second revers the it was and strolled moons the rivers A Committee of the control of the co od bas tossag enif . The contract the passes and the accident of the Control Militar back of the Unite House will prove that while and public tree and a transfer to the party of the thirt series white week haring a take bettier. The best difficult the second of drams were beating and there was much noise and politing over in that the second of part of town. Along about 5:30 P.M. the Secretary remarked that he - TOTAL SECTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY SECTION

nespected the Freetown has not cont you not smaller than heterpain

we saw the President coming across the monument grounds, hat in hand and walking fast. When he got near enough we could see that his face and hands were grimy and his clothes covered with dirt and aust. He was in a harmy mood and remarked that he had been having a bully time with the boys in the sham battle. He apologized for being late but said he could not miss all the fun going on and asked the Secretary to pardon him for the delay. Then quickly turning he said - Where are the controversial holes in the ground, Ar. Secretary? We load his to the excavations and with a few simple diagrams explained the predicament we were in. The President listened and asked a lot of questions about our plans and some about the Park Commission. Then turning to the Secretary he said in substance, 'Mr. Secretary, there are about a dozen fine old Benators who are after me all the time not to swerve an inch from the plans of our Park Commission and I know it would break their hearts if we swerved as ruch as these plans indicate. Then with a grin and a chuckle, he said - "Ir. Secretary, you would not want me to break the hearts of these Senators. " The Secretary smilingly said he could not think of being a party to such a catastrophe. The President then said -"I think you had better revano the excavations so as to conform with the suggestions and plans of the Commission. This was done as the present 'eautiful structure now testifies. It is true that 13th Itreet has disappeared along with the avenue of Ginkgos but gradually as new plans unfold it is evident when you look forward to the future as presenting something really beautiful. It turned out that we had not heard the last of this forced

change in our plans for the President was determined to read the

bred of self series to the control of the hand Three \$1.15 rules between a within all the time waiting with address than south the track been having the had been having the subject manager of the subject the subject the subject to the ao grion ... I fis seim fon black a land the land and the second of the second o -sib elouis wells and the excavations and with a few simple disor estable to really we were in. In the time line constants in thing to the Secretary he said in substance, . I castery there are about a cozen time old lenators who are two to sarig out mort don't me evrews of jon entit ent ile on tot's beviews ow it structions when the contract we swerved . s much as these plans indicate. " Then with a grin and a chuckle, he said - Tir. Secretary, you would not want no to break the hearts of he could not think of other man a catastrophe. The President them said -I will see the excavations so as to conform with the state was done as the Commission. I have done as the enter that lister that lister that lister y flaubary fud acymnic to sumers of the gradually studen of the motor of the formand to the future

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Park Commission a lesson una incidentally placute certain members of the House who had been berating the Commission for what was then considered its extravagant plans. So a little later the President called a conference at the Thite House. He confided his plans to jecretary of war Taft and left him to arrange the details. Briefly the plan was to call the Park Commission on the carpet. so to speak, having present certain members of the House of Representatives to witness the slaughter. The President also desired to have present witnesses who could show that the Commission had wabbled a nancer of times in connection with our buildings and this wabbling had cost the Government considerable money. Long afterwards Mr. Tait wrote a humorous story for The daturday Evening Post" about this meeting. There were present the entire lo members of the House Committee or Agriculture. Hr. McKim who was to be the "goat" was present representing the Park Commission. Our three architects were on hand, also Captain Sewell, our technical advisor and engineer. The President called on the witnesses, Pr. Kin. Captain Sewell, our architects, and myself for any statements we desired to make. Fr. McKim briefly outlined the work of the Commission and how it had experienced difficulties as to just what to do about the location of our buildings. He said some of the problems involved had come upon the Commission before it had been given time to study the whole situation and necessarily mistakes had been made. Our architects were cautious and merely stated that they were working under the direction of Jecretary Wilson as represented by our committee and Captain Sewell. Captain Sewell, however, was rather blunt and outsroken when it came his time to detail the difficulties he had

- termination a larger of the glass glass glass and a refraction of the same of the sa tion morals of the configuration and the first term was THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T reflected by the control of the first that the 10 th first of applie Briefly the plan was to call the Park Commission on the carps. so was in the maring present certain as ser the House of Mepresentatives to withers the sleughter. The President also desired to have s belider bad seize immod edt tadt wode bluos odv. zazzentiw thosore number of times in consection with our buildings and this vabbling had cost the Government considerable money. Long afterwards Mr. Taft wrote a hundrous story for The Saturday Lyoning Posts about s mosting. There were present the entire le members of the "deap" and st bd now kny million and served outside the by the fact than "gast" CARACTERS ERECT THE ANGLE MOTOR STATE OF TAXONERS PER ANGLE AND symmetries have wondered and but the patterns of the great me brown The firm a lider a mile was a solution and no saline remaining and with assumed Artifact by same date the tot diverge has approved that AND ALL WOLLD'S DEVIALED OF HER THE PARTY DAY SET (25 to 125 feet and 15 feet moitage. End drods ob of tanw test of as soid implified boomsines seed had hevious amelorg and to eme bine of the problems involved had come end what of emit nevis meed had it erole and a will great property the south and all the state of the state of the south and the state of the s CHARL WATER CONTINUES HAVE THEFT MARKET THE PARTY WHEN AND THE SERVER. to describe of the detail willing on adding the self-self of and the far world was a telemental and the control of the control her of said to all the set there are not not also were used to

experienced in getting definite unings from the Condesion and the costly bills thereby resulting.

After we had all had our say the President addressed his remusica to he. helim and gave the domination a domi-right coulding. He said, however, he wasted to support the Commission as he believed the plans hade and being made were vital to the future development of . Tonky ton and its curroundings. It might be well to intervolute at Wils being that the Commission was largely a creating of the recident. This was one of the reasons way so many members of the House were hostile. Is the president warmou do to his tust in the Mid Majeted under the tongue lashing the domaission was receiving. The President fine ally closed with an admonition that he would expect in the future that the Commission would be careful of its decisions and actions and not cause any needloss expenses i did not know for a long time after that Mr. McKim had been forwarned by Mr. Wart of the scolding he was going to got and ship has not not a to die opplaint too seeiously. The Congression were highly elated at the turn of affairs but seemingly overlooked the fact that the President would stant by his Commission in the big task he had assigned them. As the meeting broke up and we were going out Mr. Maft put his arm around Mr. McKim's shoulder and said - 'McKim you have won a great victory.' Mr. McKim replied - Tresalkr. Secretary, and one more victory like that and I shall be a dead man. We had no further difficulties with the Comission situation it was a matter of regret to us that we were regaired to put our buildings so far down in the ground. Time has anown that this was unmocountry to whorest by later charges in the create ant of the control portion of the Hall and the grading plans.

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-en the low orthin arthree for more real than the best on wide age that got the transfer and a collection of the large and transfer and the transfer assertion of the contract of t To immediately record and all safety water many public lots around an in- and as at a particular and a figure of the continuous and a find a particular and a find a particular and a part are the state of t THE RESIDENCE OF SECURITY OF SECURITY AND ASSESSED ASSESSED. IN COLUMN 25 SECURITY ASSESSED ASSESSED. and the bland and additional and additional and additional and additional and ally closed with an adaptition bins he would expect in the ! enolize but empirious sti to lutergo ed a few moleciamos and test suit gool a wat would son all I die not know the a long time gradiologa sate has state well but it and the sate acciding boundary will be computed the property of the party of the party of addition gd hanse bloom sumbisers and a comment of the stand by parties and the special and the first and the said the said and and and additional to the tion and we were going out in. Dart put his and around Hr. McKim's chediar sui said - 'Nella you have non a great vistory.' - bise ins reblieds For the Jade sall yearsiv ore see nor , year ered all solt - beiles -mol suff ativ seisfacilitie restant on ben of ... mun book a ed ligit -per private liter (daily her diff a register his problem on work at a compaction or data inand entil abstract out appe no sur butter the ground. The has has als was unnecessary as vivoes of later chemins in the analy pathong sait was finil and to pertion at the grading plane. AT A TENED WINE WE HOD A THAN FOR BOWERED MORE TO SHOOT TO SHOOT TO SHOOT TO SHOOT THE STANDARD OF THE STANDARD AND A TENED OF THE STANDARD OF THE STANDARD AND A TENED OF THE STANDARD OF THE STANDARD AND THE STANDARD AND THE STANDARD OF THE STANDARD AND THE STANDARD AND THE STANDARD OF THE STANDARD AND THE STAN

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U. S. DEPARTMENT

OF AGRICUMATIONS

BUILDINGS

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propressing a constant of years the two marble buildings standing on the south side of the grounds of the Department of agriculture and known as the dust and dost lings were the subject of comment as to why they were constructed as two separate units when the law authorizing construction provided for a building for the Depart ent of Agriculture. We have already referred to the construction of these two CHICK MEET THE THAT HE THAT HAVE THEFT STORED ... wings in mother note but we did not fully explain how it care about that we put up two unildings with a space between for a central or main structure. The fact of the matter is that at one than we were mading our plans for the buildings we were not a little embarras we and to a cortain extent alrested by a set of conditions for which we were in no way responsible. which we have no interest to bring the acceptance of name of vice or to

The President and Congress were at log erheads over numerous matters. The great trust busting give was on and in. The dore to served the was driving ahead using the big stick right and left. Commissions of many kinds were being appointed for many and smally jurposes. In commissions were a constant source of irrit. Not to cortain members of compress who lost no opportunity to belittle their recommendations and block their activities. Then we began to plan for our buildings we can afoul of one of the commissions but of this we have spoken classifiers.

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of dongress who lost no opportunity to belittle their

As a starting point we got a plan for our housing needs through a competition conducted for us by the then Jupervising Architect of the Treasury, a Mr. Taylor. Congress made an appropriation of 45,000 to secure the necessary plans, specifications, estimates, and costs of a structure that would meet our needs. A half a dozen or more architects entered the competition and the award was made by a jury of five architects selected by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. In carrying out this work we drew up an outline of our general needs, but the architects did not follow this very closely. they evidently seemed more bent on providing a structure that would be beautiful and classic and which might meet the terms of the competition as drawn by the Supervising Architect. The firm of Lord and Hewlett cated in lew York City was the successful competitor and they submitted a really beautiful design but not at all adapted for laboratory purposes. We endeavored to bring the architects to our point of view as to the need for laboratory facilities and the kind of light and space generally required for this kind of service. In this ceffort we were not successful outling representations that the security special pafter several months of discussion and negotiation there developed in the minds of our building committee the germ of an idea for a series of buildings all eventually to be connected and forming one more or less harmonious whole. With this idea in mind and under Secretary Wilson's direction, I drew up a ground sketch showing a central administrative building with wings on each side and extensions in the rear

as a starting point we got a plan for our housing needs through a competition conducted for us by the then Supervising DESCRIPTION OF RAN PROCESS, A CO. TANDON. CONTRACT AND - dayon , amily training on the deposit of the file of the state of th fications; estinates, and costs of a structure that would meet -mos and baratna atooficars arom to merch a find A labour two petition and the search was made by a jury of five architects selected of the Bapervising Architect of the Treasury. In Throng the to nothing to be seen as a second to tell your meeds but the architects did not follow this very closely. ... They evidently seemed more bent on providing a structure that amies eds jeem idale dolaw bas pisselo bas luilinked ed blow of the town little as drawn by the Supervising Architect. The firm of bord and Hewlettlecated in New York City was the and the state of they submitted a really beautiful design but not et all edanted for laboratory purposes. Is of as welv to frieg two of stoothings and grind of belove bine the need for laboratory facilities and the kind of light and space generally required for this kind of service. In this - Child and the comment of the contract of the

the restriction of our building on the series of buildings all eventually to germ of an idea for a series of buildings all eventually to come or less harmonious whole.

across 3 Street. S. W. . covering the blocks from 13th to 14th Streets. We were convinced that the Bepartment was destined for a great growth and development and that we would eventually need all the space indicated by our ground plant secretary Wilson gave his hearty approval and support to the plan and authorized us to take it up with the architects. As we did not have sufficient funds at the time for a central byilding and two wings it was decided that we would have general plans drawn for the central building and detailed plans for two. wings. We submitted our ideas to the architects who had been successful in the competition and found that one of them, ir. Hawlitt, was not only cold but actually hostile to our suggestions. Fr. Hewlitt seemed firmly convinced that we should erect one classical building and went so far as to say that if we did not have money sufficient to complete such a building we should at least start it with the funds we had and go back to Congress for more money to complete it. This proposal did not please Jecretary Wilson at all. When I showed Mr. Hewlitt the squares and blocks representing our ground plan and their connections he rather sarcastically remarked that the sketches looked more liked and school of fish than anything else. bedge Capts John S. Sewell, of the Engineers Corps of the Army; had been assigned by the Secretary of Ware to aid us in our construction work. Captain Sewell suggested that inasmuch as he could handle the construction work that we ask the architects to draw plans for the central building and two wings and that we would pay them at Soper cent commission for the works My

state is a state of the state o benizeeb saw imensizeed that the the was destined and the second section of the second cond all the sport Lill-colon by our grants alone the best the sale and of dropper into isvoyees often all every modile All er al selections and which much come of no been sorted . not have sufficient funds at the time for a central building and in threman avad bluow ow Just bobioob new it again out bus control of the neutral builties and the rest of the control of the The state of the state of the wings, We submitted out to the contract of again TO DESCRIPTION OF SHEET sometimes. We have in the property and the same artificial and another ted yes of as far os grew bos guidling inclusion to say that The second of the second of the second if we did not have money sufficient a confl or aid on il inc we should at least start it with the funds we had and go back to Congress for more money to complete it. This proposal did not please Secretary Wilson at all and a secretary will an an an arms and a the squares and blocks representing our ground plan and their compections he rather sarcustically remarked lucked more like a "school of fish" than amphiling else.

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In this way we would have I per cont commission on construction took the ground that it was chooper to rent buildings then to which would amount to about \$30,000. Captain Sewell took the construct and one them.

ground that the architects would not have to spend any time in the case, so far as I am awars, are a find the questions are supervising the construction and could be called in from time the araction of two separate wings. In fact, when a constructions

to time if needed and paid for such time. When these matters

were submitted to the architects they declined to have anything

to do with the proposition and insisted that so revert to the

original plan of their building. The Secretary then authorized

us to dismiss the architects which was done. The Secretary

further authorized us to endeavor to secure the services of

other architects with the result that we finally engaged the

firm of Rankin, Kellogg and Crane, of Philadelphia, to under-

take the proparation of plans practically as outlined by us.

Rankin, Kellogg and Crane prepared tentative plans for the

central building and completed plans for the two wings. The

beautiful structure as it now stands is a monument to their

ideals and vision as architects.

central building and two wings so the Secretary authorized that two wings be put up first to take care of our laboratory workers. None of us expected that it would be nearly 30 years before a central building could be provided. For nearly two decades after authorizing our structures Congress seemed to lose interest in buildings for Government use in the District of Columbia. It was lavish in its appropriation for renting buildings and when such matters were brought before committees and suggestions made that buildings be erected Congress usually

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took the ground that it was cheaper to rent buildings than to construct and own them.

No one, so far as I am aware, ever officially questioned the erection of two separate wings. In fact, when explanations were given Congressmen and others as to the why of the matter, this action of the Secretary was approved. As an aftermath of the discharge of Lord and Hewlitt this firm tried in several ways to block our work. First an appeal was made to the President through an attorney, ex-Secretary of the Navy Tracy, on the grounds that the writer of these notes, acting as chairman of the building committee, had sought by collusion with the firm of Rankin, Kellogg and Crane to have the firm of Lord and Hewlitt dismissed. The President promptly rejected Mr. Tracy's appeal. Lord and Hewlitt then took the matter into the courts and were defeated before two tribunals. It is gratifying to have witnessed the day when our "school of fish" plan materialized into one of the outstanding developments of Washington's great building program.

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